

1904-058 Chancery Causes: Mattie Reese vs. Robert Reese
Lee Co.

CA-Divorce
T-Migration
Vices

To the Honorable H.A.W. Skeen, Judge of the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia:

Humbly complaining your Oratrix, ~~Mary~~^{File} Reese, will respectfully show unto your Honor that on the ____ day of August, 1895, she was joined in the bonds of matrimony to one Robert Reese, that she, as well as the said Reese, were at that time residents of the County of Lee, State of Virginia, and domiciled therein, that she has ever since that time been a resident of said County, that the said Reese has some time resided in said County, and has some times been absent from said County, but for the last two years the said Reese has likewise been a citizen of and domiciled in Lee County.

Your oratrix will now show your Honor that her and her said husband lived together in this County for about two years after their intermarriage, but she cannot say that they lived happily together; her said husband was fretful, quarrelsome, unkind and rendered her life anything but happy; that about six years ago he deserted her and went to the state of Kentucky to live; that he remained there for several years, and that from the time of his abandonment, more than six years ago, he has not contributed anything to her support and maintainance and that during the time he lived with her he never furnished her but one single dress, and that was of calico, which he carried off with him when he abandoned her. After your oratrix was thus abandoned she was left without means of support and was compelled to return to the home of her mother, where she has made her home since that time. Her mother is a poor woman and in order to make a support for herself, your oratrix has had to hire out wherever she could get employment. Your oratrix during the time she and her said husband lived together was a true and affectionate wife to him, and she has all the time conducted herself as a wife should, though her said husband, has on his part, in his frantic tantrums, frequently accused her of being unfaithful to him.

Your oratrix will now show your honor that no issue has resulted from said marriage.

Now the prayer of your oratrix is that the said Robert Reese be made a party defendant to this bill, that he be required to answer the same but not under oath, as an answer under oath is expressly waived, and that upon a final hearing the bonds of matrimony now existing between herself and her husband be dissolved, that she be granted an absolute divorce, and be restored to her maiden name ~~xx~~ of Mattie Martin, and for full general relief.

And she will ever pray &c.

C. T. Duncan P.Q.

Mattie Rees
s. { In Cdy
Robt. Rees

Bill

Filed 1st May rules 1904
Hetting
Clark

1904 1st May rules Bill
filed ~~Ans.~~ filed Ans.

2nd May rules cause
set for hearing

Joe Coats

1900 to 10

To the Honorable H.A.W. Skeen, Judge of the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia:

Humbly complaining your Oratrix, ~~Mattie~~^{Fie} Reese, will respectfully show unto your Honor that on the ____ day of August, 1895, she was joined in the bonds of matrimony to one Robert Reese, that she, as well as the said Reese, were at that time residents of the County of Lee, State of Virginia, and domiciled therein, that she has ever since that time been a resident of said County, that the said Reese has some time resided in said County, and has some times been absent from said County, but for the last two years the said Reese has likewise been a citizen of and domiciled in Lee County.

Your oratrix will now show your Honor that her and her said husband lived together in this County for about two years after their intermarriage, but she cannot say that they lived happily together; her said husband was fretful, quarrelsome, unkind and rendered her life anything but happy; that about six years ago he deserted her and went to the state of Kentucky to live; that he remained there for several years, and that from the time of his abandonment, more than six years ago, he has not contributed anything to her support and maintainance and that during the time he lived with her he never furnished her but one single dress, and that was of calico, which he carried off with him when he abandoned her. After your oratrix was thus abandoned she was left without means of support and was compelled to return to the home of her mother, where she has made her home since that time. Her mother is a poor woman and in order to make a support for herself, your oratrix has had to hire out wherever she could get employment. Your oratrix during the time she and her said husband lived together was a true and affectionate wife to him, and she has all the time conducted herself as a wife should, though her said husband, has on his part, in his frantic tantrums, frequently accused her of being unfaithful to him.

and because respondent was unable to provide for her in a manner far beyond that which is poor man is able to reach, she became quarrelsome and abusive, accusing your respondent almost daily of being slothful and indolent and careless of her comfort and happiness, and finally she began to act in such manner as to arouse your respondents suspicions that she was being unfaithful to him. Under this unpleasant state of affairs your respondent continued to live with his said wife as before sated for about the period of two years, during which time he was true and faithful to his said wife, and endeavored by every means within his power to render her comfortable and happy. But finally the plaintiff by her acts and her abusive language provoked so many quarrels and difficulties between herself and your respondent that life with her ^{became} practically unbearable, and in addition to this respondent became convinced that his said ~~w~~ife was being unfaithful to him and that she was guilty of improper conduct with other men. Under this state of circumstances your respondent did not think it proper for him to try to live with his said wife any longer, especially since she told him numbers of times that she did not want to live with him and desired that he leave the country and stay away, and respondent did leave his home and go to the state of Kentucky where he remained for some time, after which he returned to Virginia and has since resided in this County, but he denies that he deserted her, but on the contrary alleges that she deserted and abandoned him.

Respondent denies that his said wife was during the time she lived with him, a true and affectionate wife to him, or that she conducted herself as a wife should.

Respondent believing as he does that his said wife has not been true to him; that she has been guilty of much improper and criminal conduct with other men, and further believing that it will be impossible for him to ever induce his said wife to live with him again, prays that your Honor will dissolve the bonds of matrimony existing between him and the said Mattie Reese, and if necessary that this answer be treated as a cross bill for that purpose, and that he be granted an absolute divorce.

And now having fully answered said bill, respondent prays to *be*

hence dismissed with his reasonable costs in this cause~~x~~ most
unjustly expended.

Geo. P. Bridlie p. d.

Robt. Reese
ads { In City

Mattie Reese

Answer

Filed 1st May ruled May
H. T. Dunning Clk.

Clerk	\$ 2.96
	.50
Shff.	15-00
Atty.	\$18.66
	.50
Clerk	\$19.11

1900 to 10

Mattie Reese, - - - - - Plaintiff

vs.

In Chancery

Robert Reese, - - - - - Defendant

This cause came on this day to be heard on the bill of the plaintiff, the answer of the defendant, and the depositions of witnesses and was argued by counsel:

And it appearing to the Court from the depositions of the witnesses that the defendant Robert Reese abandoned the plaintiff, Mattie Reese more than six years ago and that since that time, the said defendant has failed and refused to live with the plaintiff, or to provide anything for her support and maintenance, on consideration, whereof it is adjudged, ordered and decreed that the bonds of matrimony, now and heretofore existing, between the plaintiff Mattie Reese and the defendant Robert Reese, be and they are hereby dissolved, and the said Mattie Reese is restored to her maiden name of Mattie Martin; and it is further adjudged ordered and decreed that each party be taxed with his or her own cost.

And this cause is stricken from the docket.

Walter Reese
vs. J. du Chy
Robt Reese

Em. C.B. No. 7,
Page 452,

Enter this
Decree
H. A. W. Shum
May 16 1904

The depositions of Elizabeth Reese and others taken before me, Geo. P. Cridlin, a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia, pursuant to agreement of parties by their counsel, on the 11th day of May, 1904, at the residence of Elizabeth Reese, in Lee County, Virginia, which depositions are intended to be read as evidence in behalf of the plaintiff in a certain suit in chancery now pending in the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia, in which Mattie Reese is plaintiff and Robert Reese is defendant:

Present C. T. Duncan, attorney for plaintiff, and
Geo. P. Cridlin, attorney for defendant.

Mrs. Elizabeth Reese a witness of lawful age being duly sworn deposes as follows:

Q. 1. -- Please state your age and place of residence.

A. -- I am 54 years of age
Reside in the Back Valley
near Chandler Lee Co. Va.

Q. 2. Do you know Mattie and Robert Reese, if so state how long you have known them and their relationship to you if any

Ans. I do know them. I have known Mattie since she was born, she is my daughter. I have known Robt. about 10 years. He and Mattie were married to each

other in 1895- and he is also the son of my present husband. I have not known Robt so well for the last six or seven years.

Ques 3. You say that Mattie and Robert were married to each other in the year 1895. How long after they were married did they live together if at all.

Ans. They left home and lived together about one year, then he abandoned her and went to Kentucky as I was informed where he stayed some six years. He then returned to this County and I have seen him a few times since. And if he has had any settled abode since that time I don't know it.

Question 4 Do you know what caused

him to abandon me if so please
state why?

Ans. He said he could not sup-
port her. He told me
that he could not support
her that he would not
try to live with her
and said he would
give her back to me.
During the time they
lived together he was
cross, ill and abusive,
threatening her with
bodily injury.

Ques. Since Robert left Mattie some
seven or more years ago, where
has she made her home and
who has supported her?

Ans. She has made her
home here with me,
except that she worked
away from home
a little. I have sup-
ported her except the
little she earned for
herself.

Quest 6 During all that time has Robert
Reese contributed anything towards
the support of Mattie.

Ans. Not one single thing
and during the time
they were living together
he contributed very
little if anything. She
supported herself and
her father helped her
somewhat.

Quest 7. Has Mattie's house been in
this country for the last 6 years.

Ans. She has.

And further this
deponent saith, got.
Elizabeth ^{her} X Reese
mark

Miles Reese another
witness of lawful age
being duly sworn
deposes and says:

Quest. Please state your age,
place of residence and
occupation?

Ans. I am 52 years old
reside in the Rock
Valley near Chandler Lee Co.
Va. and am a farmer.

Ques 2. Are you acquainted with Rob-
ert and Mattie Reese and what
relation are they to you

Ans. I am acquainted with
said parties. Robt. is
my son-in-law she is
my daughter-in-law,
and her mother is
my wife and has
been so for the last
three years.

Ques 3. Do you remember where Robert
and Mattie were married to each
other, and please state how long
they lived together as husband &
wife.

Ans. I do remember where
they married in August
1895, and they lived
together for about one
year, he then left
her and went to
Kentucky and was gone

live or six years. He then came back to this County and has had no settled home since he came back.

Question 4 Since Robert abandoned Mother where has she made her home and who has supported her.

Ans.

She made her home with her mother until he and her mother were married and since then she has lived with her and her mother. She has been supported by her mother and by us except she would occasionally work from home for money to buy her clothes. As we ourselves were poor and not able at all times to do as good

a part by her as
she deserved, and as
we would have liked
to have done - And
she was always willing
to do everything she
could to aid Mrs or
myself.

Ques 5 Since they separated has Robert
ever contributed anything to
Mattie's support?

Ans. No sir. During the
time they lived together
myself and her mother
principally supported.

And further this de-
ponent saith not.
Wiles ^{vs} Reese
mark

Virginia, Lee County, to wit:
I, Geo. P. Credlin, a
Commissioner in
Chancery for the
Circuit Court of Lee
County, Va. do certify

that the foregoing
depositions of Elizabeth
Reese and Miles Reese
were taken, sworn
to and subscribed
before me at the time,
place and for the
purpose in the cap-
tion mentioned.

Given under my
hand this 11th day
of May, 1904.

Geo. P. Criddle
Coun. in Chy.

Mattie Reese
12. } in Chy.
Robt Reese
Depositions of
Elizabeth Reese
Miles Reese
Notary's Cost \$1.50
Filed May 11th 1904
by Geo. P. Criddle, Coun.
taking same.
W. C. Fearing Clerk

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon *Robert Reese*

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at the rules to be held
for the said court, on the *first* Monday in *May* *1894*, to answer a
bill in chancery exhibited against *him* in our said court by *Mattie*
Reese

And have then there this writ. Witness, *H. E. Ewing* ~~A. B. MUNSEY~~, Clerk of our said Court, at the
court-house, the *25th* day of *April* *1894*, and in the 12 year of the
Commonwealth.

A Copy Teste:

H. E. Ewing clerk

H. E. Ewing clerk

vs.

{

**SUBPOENA
IN CHANCERY**

p. q.

To *Rules.*

Court.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon Robert Reese

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at the rules to be held
for the said court, on the first Monday in May 1884 to answer a
bill in chancery exhibited against him in our said court by Mattie
Reese

And have then there this writ. Witness, H. B. Ewing Clerk of our said Court, at the
court-house, the 25th day of April 1884, and in the 12th year of the
Commonwealth.

H. B. Ewing Clerk

Matthew Reese

vs. {

SUBPOENA

IN CHANCERY

Robert Reese

Deanean Credling.

To first May Rules.

Sixth Court.

Not executed for
Want of time the
River not fordable
this April 29th 1904

J. D. Weston, D. C.
for P. M. Ball, Jr.
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